

(b) The Government has decided that future production of gas from NELP fields, as also additional gas to be developed in future, by ONGC and OIL, as well as Joint Venture/Private Companies, would be sold at market related prices. NELP provisions do not envisage regulating the price of domestic natural gas through cost plus basis.

(c) The concept of fixing of price of natural gas through 'net-back basis' would imply that the price of natural gas is derived from a given or assumed benchmark after deducting all relevant costs, etc.

Revised norms for capital equity

813. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the norms for capital equity for airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said move was aimed so that only serious players enter the fast expanding aviation sector; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to enforce more strict safety measures for airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Safety measures prescribed in the form of rules, regulations and advisory circulars are laid down for compliance and reviewed from time to time as and when required. Regular compliance is monitored by the airlines operator during internal safety audits and by the DGCA during safety audits, surveillance inspections and spot checks.

Duty and tax on petrol and diesel

814. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are variations from country to country

regarding duty and tax component in the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in developed countries i.e. Japan, Canada, USA, etc. and developing countries like India, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Philippines, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of duty and tax component percentage in these countries; and

(c) what are the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in the equivalent of Indian Rupees in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Tax percentage (rounded off) in respect of developed and developing countries are tabulated below:

| Country | Petrol | Diesel |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Developed | | |
| Japan | 45% | 33% |
| Canada | 34% | 24% |
| USA | 18% | 18% |
| Developing | | |
| India@ | 52% | 31% |
| Pakistan | 39% | 20% |
| Thailand** | 36% | 24% |

@ Prices considered for Delhi as on 1/3/07

* Includes Petroleum development levy also.

** Includes Oil Fund, Conservation Fund also.

- Data for developed countries taken from IEA Website.
- Data for Pakistan taken from Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority, Pakistan Website.
- Data for Thailand taken from Energy Policy and Planning Office, Thailand Website.

(c) The retail selling prices in equivalent of India Rupees, of petrol and diesel in developed and developing countries are tabulated below:

Rs./Litre

| Country | Petrol | Diesel |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Developed | | |
| Japan@ | 48.80 | 41.47 |
| Canada@ | 33.00 | 36.22 |
| USA@ | 26.34 | 29.16 |
| Developing | | |
| India | 42.85 | 30.25 |
| Sri Lanka* | 39.38 | 24.36 |
| Pakistan* | 39.01 | 27.39 |
| Bangladesh* | 35.80 | 21.10 |
| Nepal* | 42.02 | 33.31 |
| Philippines | 32.56 | 28.92 |
| Thailand | 30.57 | 28.29 |
| South Korea | 65.99 | 54.78 |

@ Taken from IEA website-Dec'06 prices

* As per IOC (IT) statement for neighbouring countries retail prices. Exchange rate as on 01/02/2007 considered.

Revision of duty structure on petroleum products

815. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative is being considered by Government to cut the prices of petrol and diesel in view of falling international prices in order to bring the inflation down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to revise the duty structure of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?